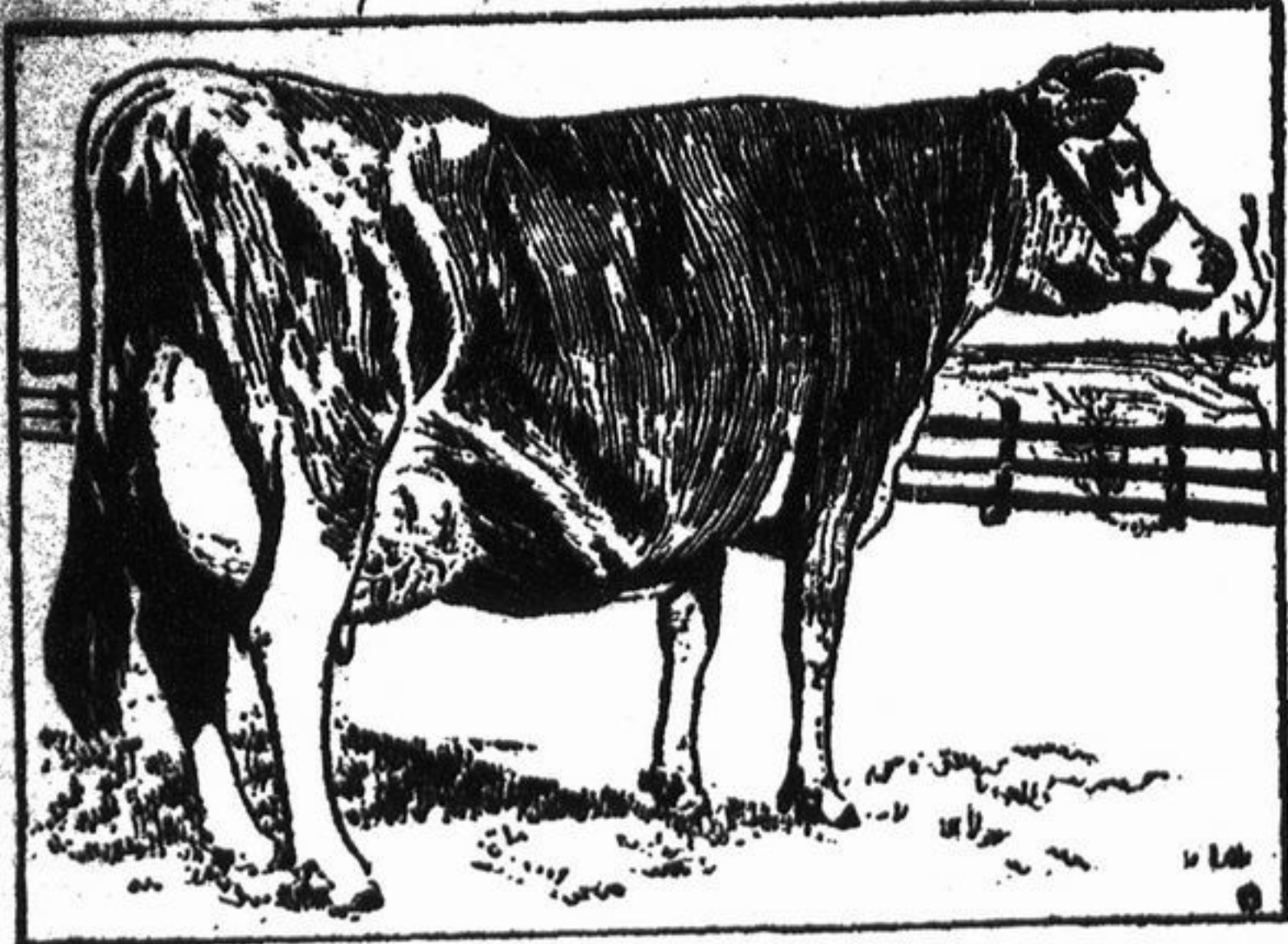


PRODUCTION OF CREAM MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM TO SOLVE

Chief Necessity in Improving Dairy Conditions Is to Give Producer Right Knowledge for Handling Product—Factor of Importance Is the Sanitary Condition of the Herd.



Great Scott's Champion, Premier Jersey Cow of the World.

By W. M. KELLEY, New York.

In the production of cream that will meet the demands of a fancy city (trade the care of the milk and the sanitary methods of handling the cows are the most exacting phases of business. Many people, when handling milk, forget that they are dealing with a food product. If it is allowed to get into the milk at any point of production, no amount of care afterward can make amends for this difficulty.

The chief necessity in improving dairy conditions is to give the producer such knowledge of the right methods of handling and caring for the milk that he will see the necessity for such methods and know how to manage his work to accomplish the desired results.

In selecting cows for producing cream it is to our best interest to select animals from breeds that have an inherited tendency to produce a large amount of butter fat at the lowest cost and for that reason Jerseys and Guernseys stand at the head of the list as economic cream producers. The factor of importance is the sanitary conditions surrounding the herd. To produce clean, wholesome cream we must have clean stables, clean yards, clean and wholesome feeds and clean attendants.

The cows must be kept comfortable at all times. This requires a warm stable with plenty of light and sunshine. Pure air is fully as essential as pure food and no man can produce fine flavored cream if his stable is contaminated with foul air. A number of authorities have said a great deal about how much cubic air space each cow should have, but I believe it is more important than we provide a plan to change the air frequently rather than figure on the basis of so much air space.

To be sweet and clean it is almost necessary that the stable be white-washed frequently. This makes a cheap and effective disinfectant and it is easily applied with a spray pump. It should be well mixed and free from lumps before using to prevent the clogging of the sprayer from getting clogged. Cement floors are the best because they are easy to keep clean. With cement floors and liberal use of straw and other absorbents it is not difficult to keep stables neat and clean.

Many disagree as to whether the milk should be separated fresh from

MAKING HOTBED WITH GLASS TOP

Permanent Affair Should Be Constructed to Be Heated by Manure or Radiating Pipes.

By H. P. HARTLEY, United States Department of Agriculture.

A permanent hotbed should be so constructed as to be heated either with fermenting manure or by radiating pipes from the dwelling or green house heating plant. For a permanent bed, in which manure is to supply the heat, a pit 2 by 2 1/2 feet deep, according to the latitude in which the work is to be done, should be provided. The sides and ends may be supported by a lining of plank supported by posts 4 feet apart, or, what is better still, a brick wall 9 inches thick may be used. In either case the pit lining should come flush with the surface of the soil.

The site for the pit should be on naturally well drained land, and a tile



Hotbed Structure of Hartley.

From the bottom of the entrance should be provided to prevent the water from accumulating in the pit. The manure should be placed in the hotbed in layers, the bottom layer being a mixture of manure and soil.

FARM AND GARDEN

RAISING ONIONS FOR MARKET

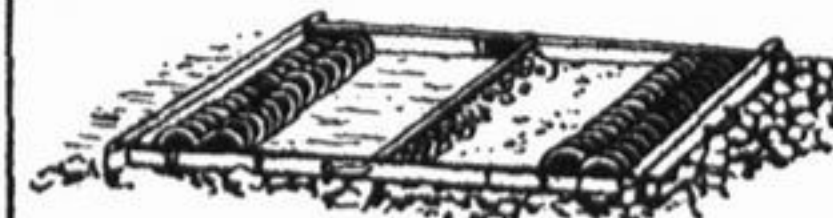
Avoid New Land, Get Pure Seed and Cultivate Properly—System of Rotation Is Best.

(By R. G. WEATHERSTONE) New land is not adapted to onion-growing, and this crop should always follow some crop that has been under hoe, and free from weeds. Onions should follow potatoes, beans or corn.

The land should be well plowed in the autumn, disked and harrowed in the spring until it is as fine as garden-soil.

Always manure heavily before breaking up the land in the fall. On new land cowpeas are excellent for bringing the land into shape.

Onions should be grown under a system of crop rotation, but the crops used in the rotation must be those



Device for Smoothing Soil Before Seeding.

that will not exhaust the high fertility necessary to onions. Continuous cropping with onions will cause the land to become diseased and filled with insect enemies.

One of the most important things in onion-culture is to mix the fertilizer with the soil well. On land that is not thoroughly drained, plow in beds, leaving a double furrow between the beds to carry off surplus water. These beds may be 75 to 150 feet in width.

The disc-harrow puts the land in fine condition after it has been thoroughly plowed in the fall. For finishing the soil a tool is now made, which when drawn over the ground will fill and obliterate all tracks, leaving the surface smooth and even, and in fine condition for either seed or transplanting.

The feeding-roots of the onion run close to the surface, and should not be disturbed by deep cultivation. After a rain, break up the surface of the soil by means of a steel rake. As soon as the plants are growing well, the cultivator should be started and kept going, in order to keep the soil in good condition, and to prevent weeds.

The single wheel-hoe is an excellent tool for this purpose. Some of the large growers near Chicago have adopted a hoe stock, consisting of a



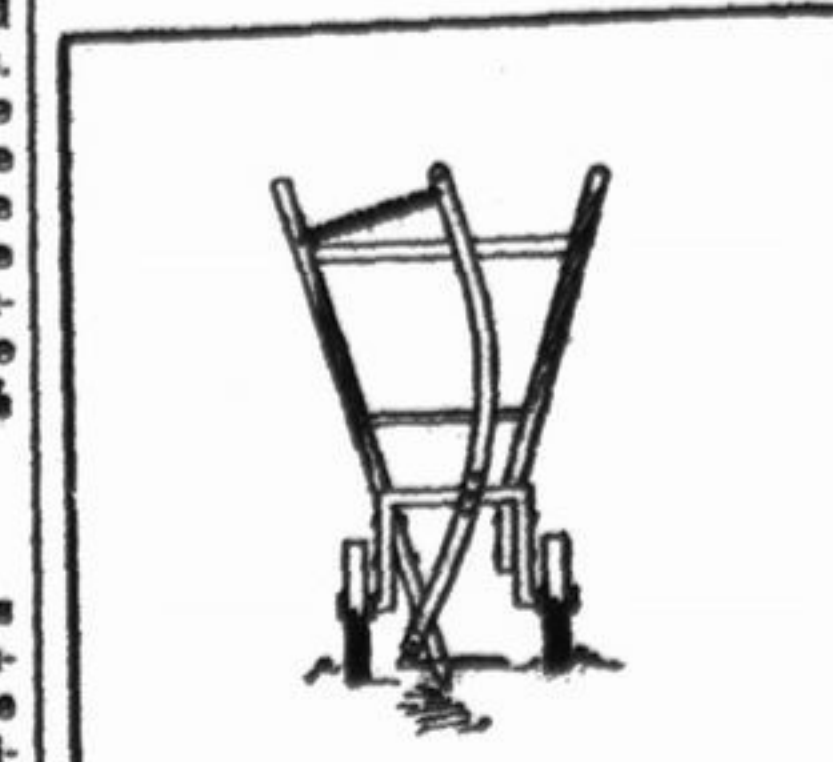
Wheel Hoe Adapted to Working Onions.

pair of light plow-handles, an iron stock, and the front wheel of a bicycle. This is patented. The hand-weeder may be used to good advantage.

HANDY MACHINE FOR PLANTS

Chopper and Thinner, Newly Patented Implement, Can Be Used Like an Ordinary Cultivator.

A new implement for use in the garden, recently patented, is a chopper and thinner for work among plants. One of the handles of this thinner terminates in a digger, and through a hole just above the digging point passes a blade, which is attached to a shift lever. The blade is arranged



Chopper and Thinner.

to operate within the hole, a spring, extending between the upper end of the lever and one of the handles, keeping the blade-carrying end of the lever adjacent to the digging point. The machine is pushed along between the rows of plants in the same manner as an ordinary cultivator.

Game Birds.

The bulletin just issued by the American Game Protective and Propagation Association should be read widely. Facts about the danger of extinction for such familiar sounding creatures as the quail and the passenger pigeon will make many a man thoughtful about protecting those who would have one more chance.

WHAT "CROP ROTATION" DOES

One of Simplest and Most Practical Ways by Which Income of Farm May Be Increased.

The rotation of crops is one of the simplest and most practical ways by which the income of the farm may be increased without greatly adding to the cost of operation.

The rotation of crops is the alternation of the three general classes of farm crops; namely, grain crops, grass crops and cultivated crops, so that a crop from each of the three classes will appear on each field at least once during each cycle of the rotation.

Under "grain crops," such crops as wheat, barley, flax and millet may be classed, in their relation to the soil. Millet, though grown for hay, has practically the same effect on the soil as a grain crop. These crops deplete the soil of vegetable matter, allow weeds to grow, and have a tendency to deplete the productive power of the land.

Under "grass crops" may be included timothy, bromus and the clovers. Though the clovers are not true grasses, they have heavy root systems, and add vegetable matter to the soil. The clovers also add nitrogen to the soil; but their chief value in a rotation seems to be due to the fact that their heavy root-systems fill the soil with vegetable matter, thus making it more hospitable to plants.

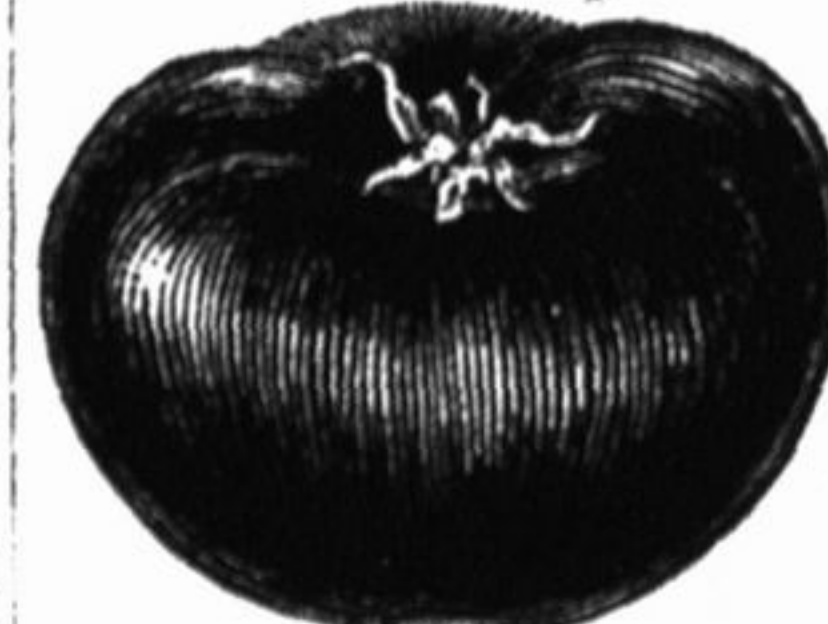
Under cultivated crops may be placed corn, potatoes and root crops. Owing to their cultivation during growth, these crops have a cleaning effect on the soil. They are, however, exhaustive of soil fertility, because the constant cultivation encourages the liberation of large quantities of plant-food. These crops leave the soil in good condition for succeeding grain crops.

PROPER CARE OF TOMATOES

Trimming of Vines in Mid-Summer Will Greatly Increase Yield—Experiments in Maine.

Very few amateurs practice trimming tomato vines, but if this is done in mid-summer the yield of fruit is very greatly increased.

Experiments at the Maine experiment show that the increase due to



An Excellent Specimen.

trimming reached from 6 to 50 per cent, and the gain by weight was very marked. In one instance reach 58 per cent.

The plants were grown under ordinary field culture and they were started in the green house April 1, planted in the field June 1 and headed back July 24, August 8 and September 5.

At each trimming the leading branches were shortened about six inches and most of the side shoots below the first clusters were removed, the others being shortened, and the sunlight was thus freely admitted.

Training tomatoes on wires to run from five to ten feet high is becoming a common practice. This method increases the yield as the sunlight reaches all of the fruit and makes picking much easier.

GARDEN and FARM NOTES

Kaffir corn makes good silage. Keep the manure spreader busy.

Why not try a patch of alfalfa this season? Plow the garden deep when you plow it.

A true saying: "A good garden is half the living."

Flax is a plant that does well on a variety of soils.

The well drained garden has many things in its favor.

Millet hay, to give the best results, must not get too ripe.

A good gardener will not be content with raising one crop a year.

The careful stockman gives his manure spreader daily exercise.

Grasshoppers may be materially decreased by winter or early spring disk-ing.

Rhubarb is one of the standard garden crops in the vicinity of large cities.

The green food problem in winter isn't much of a problem if there is any alfalfa hay on the place.

All the kernels of an ear of corn are approximately of the same composition, but different ears vary considerably.

Experienced onion growers do not advise nor follow the practice of planting onions on raw or new land as a first crop.

Consider the clovers. It often means the difference between failure and success. The clovers are almost indispensable in the farm scheme.

The sooner manure is spread in the field, the smaller the loss of fertility incurred and the smaller the amount of labor required to handle it.

The common disk harrow is more generally used than any other implement to cultivate alfalfa, and when properly adjusted does good work.

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